

MINUTES  
SOQUEL DEMONSTRATION STATE FOREST (SDSF)  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE

OCTOBER 3, 2011

ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Steve Butler	Resource Conservation District of Santa Cruz County
Patty Ciesla	Stewards of Soquel Forest
Eric Huff	Board of Forestry
Chris Spohrer	California Department of Parks and Recreation
Terris Kastner	California Department of Fish and Game
Patricia Marland	Neighborhood Representative
SteveStaub	Registered Professional Forester

ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT

Donna Bradford	Santa Cruz County
Larry Serpa	The Nature Conservancy

GUESTS

Chief Ferreira	CAL FIRE
Russ Henly	CAL FIRE
Jill Butler	CAL FIRE
Rich Sampson	CAL FIRE
Helge Eng	CAL FIRE
Pete Yaninek	Retired CAL FIRE
Thomas Sutfin	Retired SDSF Forest Manager
Daryl Breuninger	VP of Mountain Bikes of Santa Cruz
Drew Perkins	Mountain Biker of Santa Cruz
Michael Duffy	Member of Public
Dave Smith	Shuttle Smith Adventures
Jodi Frediani	Sierra Club Central Coast Forest Watch

STAFF

Angela Bernheisel	Forest Manager of SDSF
Elizabeth Lucas	CAL FIRE

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:08 a.m. by Steve Staub, President of the SDSF Advisory Committee.

Chief Ferreira presented a new badge to Angele Bernheisel, the newly appointed Forest Manager of SDSF.

2. REVIEW AGENDA AND DISCLOSURE OF EX PARTE COMMUNICATIONS .

There are no Ex Parte Communications.

3. APPROVE MINUTES OF THE FIRST MEETING HELD AUGUST 29, 2011

The minutes were approved as corrected.

4. REVIEW AND CONSIDER BYLAWS FOR APPROVAL

CAL FIRE staff wrote the provisions. The changes were discussed and the Bylaws dated August 11, 2011 were approved.

5. REVIEW AND CONSIDER FOR REVISION AND APPROVAL CHAPTERS ONE THROUGH SIX OF DRAFT UPDATE OF THE SDSF GENERAL FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN (GFMP.) THIS IS THE INTRODUCTION THROUGH THE FISHERIES CHAPTER.

Chris Sophrer requested that the EIR be put up on the web site.

Jodie Frediani says it is important to know what the changes to the GFMP are and requested a hard copy of the Draft GFMP that reveals the changes. Hard copies that reveal the changes to the GFMP are available by request.

After discussing some of the changes in the Revised Table of Contents, Steve Staub suggested that we discuss revisions to the Table of Contents that apply, at the end of each section.

The front page needs to be revised to reflect the new Forest Manager, Angela Bernheisel.

In the Introduction, page one, second paragraph, second line, change to clarify total acres of 2,681 acres instead of approximately 2,681 acres.

The Advisory Committee tentatively approved these changes to the Introduction.

MANAGEMENT GOALS were discussed.

During the discussion, Jodi Frediani suggested a sequence change by category to match the Legislation.

The Advisory Committee approved the following changes:

Change the sequence by category to match the Legislation

- (1) RESOURCE PROTECTION AND ENHANCEMENT
- (2) DEMONSTRATION AND EDUCATION
- (3) RESEARCH

(4) TIMBER MANAGEMENT

(5) RECREATION

PUBLIC COMMENTS are to remain at the end of each section with Historical Setting.

The Advisory Committee took a break at 10:25a.m.

The Advisory Committee resumed discussion at 10:32 a.m. Many questions were raised. In the DEMONSTRATION AND EDUCATION section, Helge Eng from CAL FIRE, said that we do not want to set the PLAN up for failure by having the words 'Design and construct.' He suggested the language be changed to, 'Plan for'. Eric Huff asked, "Should SDSF be demonstrating Forest Practices such a 'Prescribed Fire' that are not permitted to its neighbors in South County?" Patsy Ciesla asked if recreation opportunities could be expanded to include bike races that permit camping and close the Forest to the Public during the race.

The following suggested changes were approved by the Advisory Committee:

In the DEMONSTRATION AND EDUCATION section,

Suggested changes include:

Add, 5. Provide for more convenient public access and parking.

Change 5. to 6. and remove the words 'Design and construct' and replace with 'Plan for'

In the RESEARCH section

Suggested changes include:

Formatting change to add numbers 1, 2, and 3 for each paragraph.

In the RESOURCE PROTECTION AND ENHANCEMENT section

Suggested changes include:

Item 3-include 'prescribe fire' between management and fuel break

Item 5 line one-between study controls add 'and implement'

Item 6 change to read 'Monitor, study, and implement controls for various evasive plant species.'

Change 6 to 7

Change 7 to 8

In the RECREATION section

Suggested changes include:

Item 1 change second sentence to read 'Limited camping consistent with Forest objectives may be permitted.'

Item 3 add at the beginning of the sentence add 'Prohibit unauthorized'.

Steve Staub passed out a summary sheet "PRIMARY REFERENCES FOR THE SDSF MANAGEMENT PLAN." These drafts will be available on line and will be discussed Chapter by Chapter.

6. DISCUSS APPROACH AND ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION NEEDED PRIOR

TO REVIEWING SUBSEQUENT CHAPTERS (DEMONSTRATION AND  
EDUCATION, FOREST MANAGEMENT, RESEARCH AND RECREATION).

As suggested by Patty Ciesla, at the next meeting, Thomas Sutfin will give a historical presentation of the SDSF and Angela Bernheisel will give a current presentation of SDSF.

Steve Staub suggested the Advisory Committee read the entire plan to get orientated and to get an over view of the plan. Come to the next meeting with items that need to be changed and if possible, submit changes by October 24, and the staff will provide a summary for the next meeting. Staff is exempt from ex parte communications with Advisory Board members.

7. UPDATE ON ACTION OPERATIONS ON RIM THP

Rich Sampson, CAL FIRE, gave the update on the Rim THP. The contract is being extended to the Rim THP next spring as the volume is 1.04 million board feet while the previously estimated 1.8 million board feet is now estimated to be 1.45 million board feet.

Fern Gulch has not been successfully bid out and it is hoped to be out for bid in March. A large woody debris project is being looked into.

In answer to the question, "What demonstrations have been done during the Rim THP?" Rich responded that two weeks ago there was a demonstration to a school group. No demonstrations are planned for the next two weeks. More demonstrations are built into the Fern Gulch THP. Rich explained that an active THP is dangerous and as this current harvest is a dense stand, hang ups are frequent. Demonstrations are possible for slash control and road construction.

The Tractor Trail will not be available this winter as there are a lot of hang-ups and the trail system is subject to the Forest Practice Rules.

8. RECEIVE PUBLIC COMMENTS

Drew Perkins, a mountain biker suggests that the General Forest Management Plan improve Recreational Opportunities by creating diverse trails and different connections for mountain bikers.

9. SET DATES AND LOCATIONS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

The next meeting will be November 7, 2011 at 9:00 a.m. in the Scotts Valley City Council Chambers.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Russ Henly, CAL FIRE, expressed his thanks to the Advisory Committee for their time and effort.

Steve Staub adjourned the meeting at 12:02 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia Marland  
Secretary, SDSF Advisory Committee